

Blocks of land and estates had frequently been granted to "residents and Company's servants" under the title and in the form of "fiefs" and on the following terms, namely, that with every "licensed alienation" one-quarter of the value of the land had to be paid to the Company.

This clause and another one which provided for "certain special duties and liabilities" were evidently found to be too severe and to retard the development of agriculture round Batavia, and for this reason the Government introduced the provision that as to those occupied lands and estates "both within and beyond the jurisdiction of this city," and also as to those lands, estates and gardens which might thereafter be granted, no greater sum should in future be paid than one-tenth of their value, upon each sale or alienation, for "seigniorial rights" (just like the house-property within the town itself), exclusive of the annual tithe of the fruit and crops of such estates and gardens, and that no other duties should be leviable.

The above decree was promulgated in pursuance of a Resolution of the Supreme Government of 1st February, 1627.

REGULATIONS ABOUT ESTATES AND LANDED PROPERTIES, WITHIN AND BEYOND THE JURISDICTION OF BATAVIA.

11th April, 1628. The intention of Government in its Proclamation of 1st April, 1627, was to bring about the amelioration and improvement "of landed properties and estates," but instead of co-operating to obtain that end, many land-owners, "in order to nourish and satisfy their insatiable covetousness, had been so bold as to aggravate and to "make worse the condition of their lands, by excavating and "exhausting them for brick-kilns and otherwise, so much "so that, after a few years, the said estates would become "waste, unproductive and useless." Thence it was prohibited to do anything tending to the "detriment or prejudice" of the said properties and estates, under penalty of,—

1.—“Loss of the ownership of the said properties and estates, by depriving their proprietors of the title deeds granted to them by the Fiscal and the Bailiff.

2.—“An arbitrary fine and other punishment,” in such proportion as seemed called for by the damage inflicted. If anybody wanted to dig earth on his property “for making bricks or for anything else,” he had to provide himself first with “an order and a regulation of our committee” in order to prevent him from “spoiling” the property.

Land-owners were obliged “to open up their estates and to keep them clean and in good order lest they should be overgrown with bushes and jungle and become hiding places not only of robbers and rascals, but also of tigers and other carnivorous and hurtful animals, under the same penalty as above stated.”

RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE SIRIH AND PINANG FARM.

12th February, 1629. This regulation was issued by the Magistrate:—As “the lately finished war” prevented the said farm from being let out, “some reasons move their Honours at present” to grant it for two months (from 14th February to 14th April, 1629) to Captain BARTHOLOMEUS DE SAVEDA, who alone was allowed to gather and to sell the *sirih* and *pínang* “growing on all the impriviledged lands and estates, and also on those which did not belong to anybody.”

Transgressors of this order were to be “properly” punished.

Everybody could grow so much *sirih* and *pínang* on private land as he liked to do, but he had to sell the whole quantity “at first cost of $\frac{2}{3}$ of a real to DE SAVEDA, who could sell it again at one real and a quarter, for the same measure.”

The farmer had to station watchmen “outside the gates to take care of the fulfilment of the said conditions and to serve everybody.”

ED.